

REMARKS

Claims 1-54 are pending in this application, of which Claims 1, 9, 15, 16, 24, 30, 31, 39 and 45-54 are in independent form. Claims 2, 6, 7, 10, 13, 15-18 and 21-54 have been amended as to matters of form not affecting the scope of any claim recitation. The title has been amended to make it more descriptive, as required by the Examiner.

The Office Action states that in Claims 8, 14, 23, 29, 38 and 44, the language referring to "an image having a plurality of pages" is unclear, and has been interpreted as meaning "an image having a plurality of colors". In addition, those claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as not being supported by an enabling disclosure.

The interpretation of "an image having a plurality of pages" as "an image having plurality of colors" is not correct. The claim language in question is based on page 17, lines 19-24, of the specification, as filed. If a person skilled in the art looks at "an image having a plurality of pages", we will be sure that this expression can be caught in the meaning "image data having an image for recording on a plurality of pages". Applicants do not believe that those in the art would consider this language unclear, or have any difficulty in implementing the portions of the claims in question that involve this language. accordingly, withdrawal of the objection and of the claim rejection based on this language, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 16-19, 21-23, 31-34, 36-38, 46, 48 and 52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,204,867 (Fujimoto et al.). In addition, Claims 5, 20 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious

from *Fujimoto* in view of U.S. Patent 6,438,274 (Tokuyama et al.), Claims 9-11, 13-15, 24-26, 28-30, 39-41, 43-45, 47, 48, 50, 51, 53 and 54 were rejected under Section 103(a) as being obvious from *Fujimoto* in view of U.S. Patent 5,751,433 (Narendranath et al.), and Claims 12, 27 and 42, as being obvious from *Fujimoto* in view of *Tokuyama*.

Independent Claim 1 is directed to an image processing apparatus that comprises input means for inputting an image of one of a plurality of image types, and selecting means for selecting a recording mode from among (1) a first recording mode for recording the image on a recording material at a predetermined recording density, and (2) a second recording mode for recording the image on the recording material at a recording density lower than that of the first recording mode. Also provided in the apparatus are determining means for determining if the input image is a predetermined image type, and control means for changing to the first recording mode, when the second recording mode is selected by the selecting means and the determining means determines that the input image is the predetermined image type.

Applicants have carefully studied the prior art and the Office Action, but find themselves entirely unable to agree that the rejection is proper. Applicants believe strongly that the Examiner has misread *Fujimoto*. That patent is concerned with preventing unnecessary wear and tear on the motors used to rotate the scanning mirrors in color image forming apparatus, and describes a number of ways of doing so, e.g., when the original is a monochrome image, not rotating the mirrors other than that used to pick up black image data.

Since the drives of the driving motors in the laser scanner units are controlled in accordance with the type of the input image, the features of the image, i.e., original, etc., are automatically extracted from the input image data captured by the input device such as a scanner, so that only the motor or motors in the laser scanner units required for forming the image in question are driven. This feature makes it possible to make the copier ready within a short time. As a result, the first-copy acquisition time can be shortened, and also it is possible to avoid unnecessary driving of the motors in the laser scanner units which will not be engaged in recording the input image.

Thus, reduction of the life of the motors and/or problems of noise and wasted power consumption can be prevented.

Among other features, *Fujimoto* mentions that for monochrome image forming, the mirror used is rotated at a higher speed (referred to in that patent as a “second speed”) than is used for that and the other mirrors in color image formation (referred to as a “first speed”). The Office Action interprets this as meaning that when this feature is used, the monochrome image formation is performed at a lower image density than is achieved in the color image formation. While it may be physically possible to perform high-speed image formation in such a way that less ink is laid down per unit area (in a solid black region, for example), there does not appear to be anything in *Fujimoto* that suggests that the image formation process actually is (or should be) changed when the speed is set at the “second speed”. For all that is said in that patent, what is intended may equally well be that the ink density used is the same in both monochrome and color image formation: that is, the speed difference between the first and second speeds is enough to be worth achieving,

but is not so much that the amount of ink in each ink droplet must be reduced at the second speed.

At the least, therefore, it is clear that *Fujimoto* lacks any clear teaching of the feature for which the Office Action is citing it, and the rejection of Claim 1 is therefore improper. Accordingly, allowance of Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Each of independent Claims 9, 15, 16, 24, 30, 31, 39 and 45-54 recites the feature discussed above with respect to *Fujimoto*, and each of those claims therefore is also believed to be clearly allowable over that patent, for at least the same reasons as is Claim 1.

For all of these reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections based on *Fujimoto* is respectfully requested.

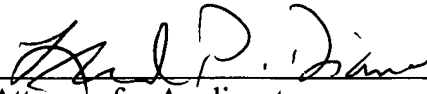
A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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